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App. No. 09/990,097
37 C.F.R. §1.116 Amendment dated August 30, 2006
Reply to final Office Action of July 13, 2006

AUG 30 2006

Docket No. 01-6145

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The above amendment and the following remarks are in reply to the final Office action of 07/13/2006 in the instant application. In light of this reply, reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested under 37 C.F.R. §1.116.

Forty-six claims (1-40 and 58-63) were pending in this application. In response to a previous, timely traversed Restriction/Election requirement, seven claims (6, 8, 9, 17, 19, 20 and 61) were provisionally withdrawn as directed to non-elected species.

In the above amendment, five independent claims (1, 14, 21, 39 and 58) were amended to place them in an allowable form or in a better form for consideration on appeal, and two claims (2 and 15) were cancelled. Accordingly, forty-four claims (1, 3 – 14, 16 – 40, and 58 – 63) remain pending for consideration.

In Section 2 of the Office action, the Examiner rejected claims 58 and 60 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,761,298 to Davis et al.

In Section 5, the Examiner rejected claims 58, 59 and 60 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4020297 to Brodie.

In Section 10, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 4, 7, 10-16, 18, 21, 23-24, 26, 39-40 and 62-63 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5761298 to Davis in view of U.S. Patent N. 5359157 to Liu.

In Section 30, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 4, 7, 10-16, 18, 21, 23-24, 26, 30-34, 36, 39-40, and 62-63 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4020297 to Brodie in view of U.S. Patent N. 5359157 to Liu.

In Section 56, the Examiner objected to claims 2-3, 5, 22, 25, 27-29, 35, and 37-38 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but stated that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Responsive to the foregoing, in the above amendment, allowable claim 2 was cancelled, and its limitations were imported into each of the independent claims (1, 14, 21, 39 and 58), thereby rendering them, as well as the claims respectively dependent from them, allowable over the art of record.

Additionally, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 14, 21, 39 and 58 now constitute allowable generic or linking claims, and pursuant to MPEP 809.04, that the

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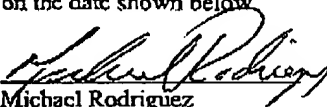
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claims respectively dependent from them and previously withdrawn from consideration (6, 8, 9, 17, 19, 20 and 61) should be rejoined to the application, examined for patentability under 37 CFR 1.104 and held allowable.

In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 3 – 14, 16 – 40, and 58 – 63 are now in an allowable form, and the Applicant therefore respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

If there are any questions regarding the above, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the number listed below.

Certification of Facsimile Transmission	
I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below	
 Michael Rodriguez	<u>8/30</u> .2006 Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



Michael Rodriguez

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